

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1950

TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY
OF WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dr. S. V. TINSLEY,
M.B., Ch.B., J.P.
Medical Officer of Health.

Telephone No. 2302/3.

*Town Hall,
Spennymoor.*

*With the
Medical Officer of Health's Compliments*

Chairman of the Council, 1950-51

Councillor W. Hirst, J.P.

Vice Chairman :

Councillor G. H. Barrett.

Chairman of Health Committee :

Councillor Mrs M. Corner.

Vice Chairman :

Councillor T. Murray

Chairman of Housing Committee :

Councillor T. W. Marley.

Vice Chairman :

Councillor F. Coverdale.

—————**COUNCILLORS**—————

H. Watcham, W. Lindsay, T. Sugden, Mrs B. Dobson,
G. Thompson, F. Steel, J. A. R. Clark,
J. Kelly, J.P., J. C. Glasper, E. Bell, B. Taylor,
H. J. Burke, R. R. Burton, T. Mulloy, J. T. Richardson,

| T. N. Moulton. |

—————**Public Health Officers of the Authority**—————

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :

Dr S. V. Tinsley, M.B. Ch.B, J.P.

Sanitary Inspectors :

M. W. Swales, M.R. San I., A.M.I.S.E.

G. Blenkinsop, Cert. S.I.B.

Clerical Assistant :

J. B. Storey.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Spennymoor.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for the Year 1950, I should like first of all to express my thanks for the valuable assistance and never failing courtesy of The Clerk to the Council and my colleagues in the Health Department. The watchful and attentive eye they have kept on the food and housing of the District has greatly contributed to the healthy state of the community.

I am still concerned at our rather high Still Birth Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate, though these are both below the pre War figures. Prematurity seems to be the main cause, followed by congenital abnormality of the child, and broncho pneumonia. The best way of improving these figures is for expectant mother's to cease factory work early in pregnancy and attend the Ante Natal Clinic. The good health and physical condition of the expectant mother is all important for a healthy offspring.

I am glad to report we had no case of Diphtheria notified during the year and certainly no deaths.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. V. TINSLEY.

Population :-

The Register General's figure calculated to the middle of 1950 gives the resident population of the District as 20,020. This figure represents an increase of 260 on the previous year and 980 on the 1939 figure.

The approximate population of the various Wards of the District is :

Spennymoor Ward	...	4,834
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	3,619
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	1,700
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	892
Byers Green Ward	...	1,636
Tudhoe Ward	...	7,339
Total population	...	<u>20,020</u>

Area

The District covers 7,494 acres and includes the villages of Middlestone Moor, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington, with an acreage of :-

Spennymoor Ward	...	168
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	551
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	1,349
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	1,612
Byers Green Ward	...	1,115
Tudhoe Ward	...	2,699

Inhabited Houses :-

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District according to our records at the end of December, 1950 was 5,736.

Rateable Value :-

The Rateable Value of the District according to the Rating Officer is £77,781 and the product of a penny rate £294.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Births 1950</u>				
<u>Live Births :-</u>	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	188	210	398	} 20.83
Illegitimate	10	9	19	
	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 219	<hr/> 417	
<u>Still Births :-</u>	Male	Female	Total	Still Birth Rate
Legitimate	7	6	13	} 70
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 14	

For comparative purposes the rates are given for the three previous years and for the three years immediately prior to the War.

1936	Live Births	271	giving a Birth Rate of	17.5	per 1,000
	Still Births	18	„ „ „ „ „ „	1.17	„ „
1937	Live Births	318	„ „ „ „ „ „	17.20	„ „
	Still Births	16	„ „ „ „ „ „	.86	„ „
1938	Live Births	319	„ „ „ „ „ „	16.50	„ „
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „ „	.46	„ „
1947	Live Births	452	„ „ „ „ „ „	23.95	„ „
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „ „	.47	„ „
1948	Live Births	415	„ „ „ „ „ „	21.04	„ „
	Still Births	6	„ „ „ „ „ „	.30	„ „
1949	Live Births	433	„ „ „ „ „ „	21.91	„ „
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „ „	.46	„ „

Extracts from National Statistics are given for Comparative purposes :-

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns
Births	20.83	15.8	17.6	16.7
Still Births	0.70	0.37	0.45	0.38

This is the highest still birth rate since 1937.

Several of these cases have occurred in Homes and it is impossible to state why this rate should fluctuate so much from year to year.

DEATHS-1950

	Male	Female	Total	Rate
Deaths	135	106	241	12·04
Infantile	10	9	19	45·56
Mortality			per 1,000 Births	

The infantile mortality rate remains high, the chief causes being congenital abnormality and broncho pneumonia. The old bug-bear acute gastro enteritis seems to have disappeared with the introduction of better feeding.

Pre-war and Post-war periods are enumerated for comparison.

1936	Deaths	193 deaths giving a rate of 12·16 per 1,000		
	Infantile	21	„ „ „ „	77·5 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births
1937	Deaths	236 deaths giving a rate of 12·80 per 1,000		
	Infantile	24	„ „ „ „	75·47 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births
1938	Deaths	239 deaths giving a rate of 12·30 per 1,000		
	Infantile	17	„ „ „ „	53·03 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births
1947	Deaths	224 deaths giving a rate of 11·87 per 1,000		
	Infantile	17	„ „ „ „	37·61 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births
1948	Deaths	220 deaths giving a rate of 11·15 per 1,000		
	Infantile	21	„ „ „ „	50·40 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births
1949	Deaths	215 deaths giving a rate of 10·88 per 1,000		
	Infantile	16	„ „ „ „	36·95 per 1,000
	Mortality			Births

National & Local Statistics (comparisons)

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns
Deaths	12·04	11·6	12·3	11·6
Infantile	45·56	29·8	33·8	29·4
Mortality				per 1,000 births

The Death Rate is the highest since 1946, it will be seen from the following table that heart troubles and diseases of the nervous system account for the largest number of deaths. For some years the Infantile Mortality rates have fluctuated, the present rate is an improvement on our pre-war figures.

<u>Causes of Death</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
All Causes	...	135	106
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	7	1
Others forms of Tuberculosis	...	2	—
Whooping Cough	...	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	.	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	5	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11		7
Diabetes	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	16	17
Coronary disease, angina	...	18	9
Hypertension with heart disease	...	7	5
Other heart disease	...	18	28
Other circulatory disease	...	7	1
Influenza	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	4	5
Bronchitis	...	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	5	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	—
Congenital malformations	...	—	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		11	11
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	—
All other accidents	...	3	3
Suicide	...	2	1

Deaths according to Age Groups :-

	<u>-5</u>	<u>-15</u>	<u>-25</u>	<u>-50</u>	<u>-75</u>	<u>75-</u>	Total all Ages
Males	13	1	3	18	74	26	135
Females	8	1	—	12	56	29	106
							<u>241</u>

Tuberculosis 1950

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary</u>
Males	81	22
Females	74	29
	<u>155</u>	<u>51</u>

An increase of 2 Pulmonary cases and a decrease of 4 Non Pulmonary cases on the Register have taken place.

The number of deaths from the disease represents 4·85% of the cases on the Register, being 2·36% below last year's figure. The number of pulmonary cases on the Register is considerably higher than our pre-war incidence of the disease and in my opinion this is due to advanced methods of diagnosis and not due to any increase in infection.

The number of known Tuberculosis cases in the District represents 1·03% of the population and is a decrease of ·02% on the previous year.

It is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ years since we had a visit from the Mass Radiography Unit. In my opinion the interval between visits of this Unit is too great : to obtain the interest and confidence of the Public, annual visits should be made.

Summary of Infectious Diseases notifications.

	Under one yr.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 yrs & over
Scarlet Fever	2	4	6	12	6	3	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis							
Males							
Pulmonary	—	1	—	—	2	2	9
Non Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Females							
Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
Non Pulmonary	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

Tabular Statement of the Notification of other
Infectious Diseases in the District during the year.

Diseases	Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	35
Whooping Cough	75
Acute Poliomyelitis	<div> <div>Paralytic</div> <div>Non Paralytic</div> </div> 4 2
Measles	
Diphtheria	382
Acute Pneumonia	Nil
Dysentery	22
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	7
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Paratyphoid Fevers	Nil
Scabies	5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than TUBERCULOSIS) during 1950. MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATIONS

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	6	4	1	4	6	2	3	—	2	3	4	35
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2	—	—	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	22
Erysipelas	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	7
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis—Acute	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	6
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	108	139	77	27	5	6	4	7	2	4	2	1	382
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	5	1	1	1	4	7	9	11	19	7	8	75
Dysentery	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scabies	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	5
Monthly Totals	116	152	85	32	13	19	18	21	16	30	16	17	535

Notifications by Wards (Civilian)

		Spennymoor	Low Spennymoor	Middlestone Moor	Byers Green	Kirk Merrington	Tudhoe	Total
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	4	2	2	3	6	18	35
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	10	2	2	2	—	6	22
Erysipelas	...	3	—	—	—	—	4	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis - Acute	...	2	1	—	1	—	2	6
Measles	...	132	59	18	3	16	154	382
Meningococcal Infection	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	22	6	15	—	—	32	75
Dysentery	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scabies	...	2	1	—	—	—	2	5
Tuberculosis : —								
Pulmonary	...	7	3	1	—	—	9	20
Non Pulmonary	...	1	—	—	1	1	1	4

Diphtheria Immunisation :-

As the County Council is now responsible for arrangements for the immunisation of the child population, it is not possible to include details of this work. The Registrar General and the County Authority have, however, supplied the following particulars:-

			Age 0-4 years inclusive.	Age 5-14 years inclusive.
(1)	Estimated number of children residing in the Area, 30th June, 1950	... ..	2,020	2,938
(2)	Total number of Children Immunised during 1950	...	176	25

Scabies :-

The Council continued the treatment of Scabies patients at the Cleansing Centre, Cheapside, Spennymoor from this District and the adjoining Sedgefield Rural District also part of Crook & Willington Urban District until 31st March, 1950, when the Centre was closed down.

In view of the small number of cases occurring and the comparative mildness of these cases, the expence of continuing the Centre for treatment was not justified and the occasional case diagnosed could be treated by the patients' doctor. This gradual decrease is illustrated in the following table :-

			Jan. Feb. Mar.	
	1947	1948	1949	1950.
Spennymoor U.D. Area - cases	88	42	16	2
treatments	135	80	32	3
Sedgefield R.D. Area - cases	35	31	38	1
treatments	90	69	72	2
Crook and Willington U.D. Area - cases	1	1	3	-
treatments	1	3	3	-

Ambulance Service :-

The County Authority is responsible for this Service under the National Health Act. The local ambulances formerly owned by this Council have now been transferred to the Bishop Auckland Depot. The Service appears to be more established and the acquisition of additional ambulances should overcome reported delays in the collection of cases and overcrowding of vehicles.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED AND WORK DONE
IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT,
DURING THE YEAR, 1950.

1. Public Health Acts :-

		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwellinghouses and Schools	Foul Conditions	—	—	1
	Structural- Defects	131	43	82
	Overcrowding	1	1	1
	Dairies and Milkshops	1	—	—
Ashpits and Privies		10	—	8
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		2	—	2
Waterclosets		1	—	1
Defective Yard Paving		1	—	1
House	Defective Traps	4	—	1
Drainage	Other Faults	348	—	348
Water Supply		5	2	2
Offensive Trades		—	1	—
Other Nuisances		66	—	66
Totals :		570	47	513

<u>11. Water, Food and Drugs.</u>	<u>Number</u>
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	3
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	—
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	—
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—
Samples found Adulterated ...	—

111. Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	35
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	69
Schools ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	—

IV. General :-

Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	60
Number of such Houses occupied during the year ...	60
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	—
,, ,, ,, ,, Water-Closets ...	—
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	108
Total Number of Water-Closets in the District ...	2,374
Total Number of Ash-closets in the District ...	3,432
Total Number of Ash-pit privies in the District ...	83

Infestation :-

During the first nine months of the Year, the furniture of all applicants removing to Council property was required to be disinfested during transit. This work was carried out by the London Fumigation Company on behalf of the Council. A flat charge of £2 per household was made on the new applicants as a contribution towards the cost of this work. This scheme has been operated during our post-war Housing work and it has ensured that Council property remained free from serious vermin infestation. After very careful consideration, however, by the Council it was decided to discontinue this practice in October, 1950 owing to the rising cost of this work which was not subject to any grant and became a direct charge on the rates.

The discontinuance of the service was regretted as the Council could be proud that its property was comparatively free of vermin, at the sametime, it was appreciated that the expense could not be justified in view of the need to economise and keep costs within reasonable limits.

Disinfestation work by the Council staff is carried out at the request of occupiers. Hydrogen cyanide cannot be used for this work owing to its dangerous qualities, we have therefore, continued to use liquid and gaseous insecticides of lower toxicity, but easier to handle. During the Year 23 houses were treated for vermin at the request of the occupants.

Rodent Control :-

The Council employs a part-time Rodent Operator to carry out the duties delegated to it in this connection. In addition to dealing with surface infestations in private and business premises, the Operator also carried out systematic treatment of sewers, disposal works and refuse tips.

Measures of Control by Council Staff.

Type of property.	Number of properties inspected.	Number or inspections made.	Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Section 6, (1) or by informal arrangement		
			Number of Blocks.	Surface Number of Separate occupancies.	Assoc. Sewers Number of Manholes treated.
Local Authority property (S.U.D.C.)	7	42	—	—	
Dwelling House	43	181	3	40	
Business Premises	31	95	7	34	
Agricultural Property	1	6	—	—	
Total	82	324	10	74	597

The work carried out by the Rodent Operator is tabulated below :-

	<u>Bodies Found</u>	<u>Estimated Kill</u>
Shops and Business premises	80	266
Private Property	21	121

The continued ill health of the Council's Rodent Operator greatly restricted the amount of work done during the Year, and consequent delays in treatment resulted in increased infestations of certain property. With the resignation of the Operator at Christmas, the Council appointed Mr J. W. Greaves to carry out this work. After completing training by the Ministry Staff, Mr Greaves has carried out his duties with efficiency and enthusiasm.

Meat and other Foods Inspection, Transport and Handling :-

The Ministry of Food has continued the slaughter of all animals for human consumption at the slaughter-house at Bishop Auckland. After slaughter and inspection, the carcasses are transported by motor vehicle for allocation to butchers from a Spennymoor Depot. I am pleased to note an improvement in the transport of the meat, a new vehicle is employed on this work, which is fitted with wall and roof hooks for hanging the meat during transit. The old method of stacking carcasses on the floor was most unsatisfactory, not only from increased danger of contamination of the meat, the keeping qualities were often affected when the carcasses had not previously been properly cooled.

I think that the handling of the meat has shown an improvement during the year, this is no doubt due to the drastically reduced meat rations: the staff has less meat to handle in the restricted accommodation used at Bishop Auckland and smaller quantities to transport and allocate. This point is insufficient compensation for the reduction.

The present method of the Ministry of Food of centralised slaughtering is to be commended and I hope we will never return to the pre-war method of slaughter in numerous and isolated slaughterhouses. When meat does become free from rationing restrictions, I am of the opinion that the present slaughtering and cooling arrangements will quickly prove insufficient and I hope that when this long anticipated day arrives, some authority will have in operation within this District, a slaughter house with adequate cooling and refrigeration facilities for the supply of the butchers within our own area.

A reduced number of inspections of Cottages' pigs have been carried out when slaughtered at the feeders' premises or recognised slaughter houses. Quantities of meat were examined at the request of butchers, and certificates issued to obtain replacement meat, when found to be necessary. Tinned foods were also inspected and Condemnation Certificates issued where necessary.

The following is a list of the food for which certificates were issued :-

383 lbs Meat submitted by Butchers.

446 tins of Miscellaneous foodstuffs.

43 lbs Pork Brawn	167 lbs Pork Sausage
53 lbs Beef Sausage	10 lbs Luncheon Sausage
6 $\frac{3}{4}$ stone Flour	79 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Plums
30 $\frac{3}{4}$ doz Duck Eggs	18 $\frac{1}{4}$ doz Hen Eggs
8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs Corned Beef	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Danish Pork
11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Salmon	35 lbs Jellied Veal
2 lbs Chicken	35 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Luncheon Meat
59 lbs Rabbit	44 lbs Danish Luncheon Tongues
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ Carrotts	78 lbs Bacon
5 lbs Pilchards	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Butter
17 lbs Cherry Cake	112 lbs Black Pudding
17 lbs Jam	33 lbs Cheese

12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Pears	90 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Peas
503 lbs Tomatoes	37 lbs Beans
2 ton 12 cwts Jersey Potatoes.	18 Stone Cod
7 stone Kippers	

The proprietors of many food establishments were again supplied with quantities of D.D.T. powder to mix with the limewash when cleaning their premises, together with the spraying of painted and glazed surfaces. This treatment has materially reduced flies and other insects in such premises.

The Council has also adopted the Ministry Model Bye-laws with respect to the Handling, and Transport of Food, and in co-operation with the traders, a Food Traders' Guild Committee has been inaugurated and a higher standard of Food Handling adopted.

Instructive film displays have already been given to Food Trades' staff and similar activities will be continued with a view to the improvement in the preparation and handling of all articles of food.

Water Supply :-

The whole of the District is supplied with a piped supply of water by the Durham County Water Board with the exception of certain small isolated properties. One such group forming part of the Windlestone Estate, receives Water Board water through privately owned mains. The supply has continued to be inadequate through lack of pressure and encrustation of the pipes. The matter is under discussion with the Agents of the estate.

Three samples of water were taken for analysis during the Year. One of the samples from the Windlestone supply was found to be subject to surface contamination and steps were taken to have the mains flushed.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal :-

The whole of the District with the exception of Kirk Merrington is sewered and the effluent treated at disposal plants at Byers Green and Tudhoe.

The village of Kirk Merrington is drained to disposal works at Leasingthorne, operated jointly by this Council and the Bishop Auckland Urban District Council.

Certain isolated properties continue to use cesspools, including a large one at North Close these are regularly cleansed by the Council.

The Council was unable to obtain Ministry sanction to the carrying out of the resewering of Kirk Merrington. Permission was given to the provision of a new sewer for the housing estate shortly to be opened at the east end of the Village and modifications to the outfall sewer.

Many complaints of chokages in private drains have been dealt with during the Year. The continued use of property which should be dealt with under Sections 11 & 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, accounts for a considerable number of these complaints.

With the increase to £7 per conversion in the Council grant towards the cost of converting to the Water Carriage System, many small property owners have undertaken this very necessary improvement to their property : also several have accepted the free issue of dustbins upon the demolition of ashclosets in property having in addition W.C's within the houses.

During the Year 108 ashclosets were converted to the "Water Carriage System". The National Coal Board is the largest property owner in the District and it refused any offer of the Council below 50% of the cost of converting any of the 900 ashclosets remaining in its property. The Council has been informed that the work of converting to the "Water Carriage System" should be subordinated to the urgent needs

of Housing. We have not, therefore, been able to undertake any Conversion Schemes during the Year.

Refuse and Salvage Collections and Disposal :-

(a) The Cleansing work is carried out by direct labour with four lorries and five carts, another lorry is used solely for the collection of Trade Refuse and Salvage from business premises. The refuse collection vehicles collect salvage at the same time as the refuse.

The large mining population of this District contribute considerable quantities of stone and cinders to the refuse. The predominance of ash-closets in certain parts makes the refuse foul and wet. The receptacles serving the property at the end of the Year consisted of :-

2,410 Dustbins; 3,432 Ash-closets and 83 Privy Ash-pits.

An estimated quantity of 18,000 tons of refuse was removed to tips by the above-mentioned vehicles during the Year. Three refuse tips are used for this purpose and dust-bin refuse is at present used for levelling-up a site on the Park Estate. Controlled tipping is used at two of the tips. Frequent trouble is, however, experienced with fires upon the exposed faces caused by the tipping of hot ashes in the refuse.

During the year it is estimated that the above vehicles collected and removed to tips situated at Tudhoe Colliery, Middlestone Moor and Byers Green, House Refuse as follows.

4,724 Cart Loads of an average weight of 19 cwts, 1 qr, per load	...	4,547 tons
4,613 Lorry Loads of an average weight of 2 tons, 15 cwts, 3 qrs. per load	...	12,858 tons
742 Cart Loads removed by Hired Carts of an average weight of 19 cwts, 1 qr, per load	...	715 tons
Total Refuse removed per Annum	...	18,120 tons

(b) Salvage collections for the Year have dropped considerably. The Public and Staff have apparently lost interest in this work. We were fortunate in continuing to find ready markets for all our salvage. Many districts have been compelled to discontinue collections owing to inability to market the materials salvaged.

The Council contract with the Mills for the disposal of Waste Paper expired during the year and we considered ourselves very fortunate when we were able to arrange another contract for 5 years at a time when we expected to be asked to restrict the delivery of this material to the Mills.

During the Year the following materials were collected any sold :-

		<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>
Waste Paper	...	107	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kitchen Waste	...	2	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flattened Tins	...	6	11
Bones	...	—	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Light Scrap	...	—	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Scrap Metal	...	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Non Ferrous Metals	...	—	1 $\frac{3}{4}$

Waste Paper constitutes the major portion of our income from salvage, contributing £581-9-9d towards our total income of £606-19-5d from this source.

The collection of waste food has been discontinued during the year. This service has been carried on at loss for sometime. The waste food bins were not withdrawn, but were allocated to certain pig keepers who undertook to empty the bins and keep them free from nuisance. No charge was made by the Council for the use of these bins.

Flattened Scrap Tins have continued to be in great demand by the steelworks and no trouble has been experienced in disposing of our collections. The financial return for this

material is not great, the disposal is serving a consumer need, and at the same-time the work and appearance of the refuse tips is improved by the removal of such material.

Housing :-

For information, the Council's pre-war and post-war Housing Programme is summarised below :-

Period 1935-36

Clearance and Individual Unfit Property

The Council dealt with	175 Houses
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Period 1937-39

Under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936

The Council dealt with	506 Houses
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Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

The Council dealt with	51 Houses
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Period 1936-38

New Houses :-

<u>North Eastern Housing Association erected</u>	280 Houses
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<u>Urban District Council erected</u>	66 Houses
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Period 1945-50

<u>North Eastern Housing Association erected</u>	112 Houses
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<u>Urban District Council erected</u>	495 Houses
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Tenants removed from property scheduled under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936			66 Houses
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...

The immediate building programme of the Council provides for the erection of the following :-

Tudhoe Moor Estate	...	...	106 Houses
York Hill Estate	...	...	102 Houses
Durham Road	...	approx	40 Houses
Kirk Merrington	...	...	50 Houses
Middlestone Moor	...	approx	300 Houses

During the year, 241 applications were received for houses, bringing the total since December, 1945, to 2,413.

The building programme of the Council has been seriously affected by the difficulty in acquiring sites owing to present and proposed mining operations under the greater part of the Urban District. Part of the York Hill Site to be completed in 1951, has required special reinforcement of the foundations of a number of the houses, due to mining activities.

The development of the Middlestone Moor Estate for a large number of houses, covering the Housing Allowance of the Council for several years is closely related to the development of the Sewerage facilities of that particular part of the district.

The number of Live Applications remaining on the Register at the end of the Year was 1,234—this number is divided into the following groups :-

2-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	...	170
2-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	...	447
3-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	...	26
3-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	...	224
4-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	...	2
4-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	...	69
Bungalows	...	...	...	137
				<hr/>
				1,075

The above list contains applications from people at present living outside the District but working within. In addition, we have 101 applications from people living and working outside the Urban Area.

90 families were removed to the North Eastern Housing Association and Council property during the year, of this number, 5 were Key Workers at the Trading Estate, Spennymoor.

The new Pointing System adopted by the Council has operated very well during the year. This system is based on the Points Scheme suggested by the Ministry of Health in its publication the "Selection of Tenants". The Basic Points allocation provides for Overcrowding, Insanitary housing conditions and Tuberculosis in families, as reasons for receiving points. Balancing Points are also allocated for War Service, Residence in the District and Length of Period of Application. The latter points only affect the relative positions of applications with an equal number of Basic Points.

The Council also agreed to allocate 70% of the future houses to Sub-tenants, 25% to Tenants and 5% to Special Cases. The houses erected and occupied during the year were of all sizes and included aged peoples Flats.

Factories Act 1937 :-

One complaint has been received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories of contravention in a factory. This complaint was investigated and remedied. 11 visits were made to premises registered under Part I of the above Act, and found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.

